

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney gratefully acknowledges the telephone conference with the Examiner on October 17, 2005, in which the Examiner clarified for Applicant's attorney that the pending office action includes two separate and non-overlapping double patenting rejections.

Claims 1-15 are cancelled. Claims 16-38 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 20-25 and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for statutory double patenting in light of US Patent 6,751,667 (USP '667). Applicant respectfully traverses the statutory double patenting rejection with respect to claims 20-25 and 30-34. The Examiner states as his reason for the statutory double patenting rejection that volatile memory is inherently faster than non-volatile memory. Applicant respectfully points out that the examiner's assertion is incorrect. Some forms of volatile memory are faster than some forms of non-volatile memory, but the reverse is also true. For example, one type of volatile memory is dynamic RAM (DRAM), and one type of non-volatile memory is NVRAM (static RAM (SRAM) with a battery backup). Non-volatile NVRAM is generally faster than volatile DRAM. See "Fast Guide to RAM – a Whatis.com definition" (copy attached) at http://searchmobilecomputing.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid40_gci523855,00.html, with particular reference to page 3 "How RAM Effectiveness is Measured – Static RAM (SRAM)", page 4 "Nonvolatile RAM (NVRAM)", and "The RAM Table" at pages 6-7. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the statutory double patenting rejection under 35 USC 101 of claims 20-25 and 30-34 has been overcome.

Claims 16-19, 26-29 and 35-38 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting in light of US Patent 6,751,667 (USP '667). Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer and respectfully submits that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection has been overcome.

Claims 16-19, 26-29 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner stated that it was unclear what was meant by “storing ... a field including a number subfield and a range subfield in a volatile memory”. Applicant believes that this Section 112 rejection was inadvertently directed to claims 33 and 34, which do not include the language that the Examiner found problematic. Applicant appreciates the Examiner pointing out the overlooked drafting error in claims 16, 18, 26, 35 and 37 that has led to the Section 112 rejection. Applicant has therefore amended claims 16, 18, 26, 35 and 37, changing “identifier and a field” to “identifier in a field”, and respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 USC 112 has been overcome.

Claims 16-19, 26-29 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Tedesco et al. (USP 6,421,651). Applicant believes that the Section 103(a) rejection was inadvertently directed to claims 33 and 34, which are dependent on claim 32, which was not rejected under Section 103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under Section 103(a). The Examiner asserts that the storage of portions of identifiers in volatile and non-volatile memory is a matter of design choice. Applicant believes this is hardly the case. The design choice of those with ordinary skill would be to use the same type of memory (volatile or non-volatile) for storing the entire identifier. There is no showing or suggestion in Tedesco et al. to split portions of the identifier storage between two types of memory (e.g., volatile/non-volatile). Further because the identifiers disclosed by Tedesco et al. are for locating a position in a request queue in an individual jukebox, it is unlikely that the problem solved by Applicant's invention, in which unique identifiers are generated for a large number of networked components that may exist simultaneously and/or over a period of time, would even concern Tedesco et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's obviousness rejection and submits that the obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103(a) of claims 16-19, 26-29 and 33-38 has been overcome.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the examiner's rejections and an early notice of allowance of claims 16-38 are earnestly solicited.

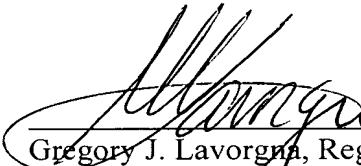
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that allowance be granted at the earliest date possible. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicant's amendments or response, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (215) 988.2717.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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